



# AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

## January 2025 Newsletter

**Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

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### Save the Date!

**January 25**

#### **DEI Branch Meeting**

9:30- 11:30 AM Program - 10:00 AM

Bethel Lutheran Church

4925 Farmingdale Drive, Colorado Springs, 80917

Speaker: Becky Treece, CEO, The PLACE

[Click here to register for the Homeless Youth Branch Meeting](#)

**February 1**

**AAUW Colorado Public Policy**

Violence Against Women

Zoom Meeting 9:00 am to Noon

[Click here to register for AAUW Colorado's Public Policy Zoom Meeting](#)

**February 15**

**Environmental Branch Meeting**

10:00 AM – 12:30 AM (doors open at 9:30 AM)

UCCS Downtown Facility, 102 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

[Click here to register for the February Branch Meeting](#)

**March 8**

**International Women's Day**

8:00am - 4:30pm

Colorado Springs Marriott

5580 Tech Center Dr.

[Click here to register for International Women's Day](#)

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## President's Message

### President's Message

Thank you for all of those that attended our Holiday Party at Biaggi's. It was a fabulous time, and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves!

January brings a New Year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our January Branch Meeting on the 25th at Bethel Lutheran Church, starting at 9:30am. Our meeting, featuring CEO of the Place, along with a representative from Youth and Family Services, El Paso County will guide us through Understanding Youth Homelessness in our Community. They are always looking for toilet paper donations, and if you are able to spare a pack, please consider bringing them to the branch meeting on the 25th.

22 in 22! Please consider donating any flexible plastic (please see requirements below) that you have around your home, we are only 22 lbs. away from meeting the minimum in order to place a Trex bench here in our community!

I would also like to mention that Colorado Springs was one of only two branches in Colorado that met National's 4 of the 5-star criteria for 2023-2024. This is an incredible achievement, and I appreciate all those that worked hard to make this happen!!

Thank you,

**Crystal Stebbins**

President

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## January Branch Meeting

**You won't want to miss our January 25th Branch meeting**

Details and sign-up are below



Every young person deserves a place to belong. Our mission is to empower Colorado youth to break the cycle of homelessness, forge supportive relationships and have self-sufficient, successful lives.

Join us as Becky Treece, [CEO of the PLACE](#), and Catania Jones, [Director, Youth and Family Services at El Paso County Human Services](#), discuss the physical, social and emotional needs for youth experiencing homelessness, the policies that impact our youth and how we can help.



Please register and join us. Click the green button below or copy the following URL:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-youth-homelessness-in-our-community-tickets-1112885393169?aff=oddtcreator>

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 - 9:30- 11:30 AM**

**Program - 10:00 AM**

Bethel Lutheran Church

4925 Farmingdale Drive, Colorado Springs, 80917

[Click here to register for the Homeless Youth Branch Meeting](#)



The Place would welcome donations of packages of toilet paper to be used in the apartments as a part of the welcome packet. Gift wrapped would be nice and fun.

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## February Branch Meeting

February 15, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:30 AM (doors open at 9:30 AM)

Location: UCCS Downtown Facility, 102 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**Panel discussion: "Opportunities and Challenges of Local Recycling and Environmental Preservation Efforts: How AAUW Members Can Help Lead Positive Change in Our Community"**



Join us for an expert panel presentation and conversation to understand the opportunities and challenges facing organizations and individuals in helping to preserve our precious environment.

Members wishing to attend must register through Eventbrite using the link below or click on the green button.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/support-local-recycling-and-environmental-preservation-tickets-1133089072919?aff=oddtcreator>

Please Note: Seating is limited to 50 participants

[Click here to register for the February Branch Meeting](#)

.In the first part of the program, we will hear from three expert panelists:

- **Kathy Andrew**, Division Manager, El Paso County, heading the Community Services Department, Colorado Conservation Assistance Network
- **Ryan Beland**, operations manager for Republic Services in Cañon City. He operated Tri-Lakes Disposal in northern El Paso County with his father from 1997 to 2020 when they sold their family-owned business to GFL
- **Jerry Cordova**, A geographer by trade, Jerry Cordova, is a specialist for the Stormwater Enterprise of the City of Colorado Springs, doing public outreach and education about where our water comes from, the importance of conservation and our natural resources, and why protecting the water we use is vital
- Specialist for the Stormwater Enterprise of the City of Colorado Springs, doing public outreach and education.

Our panelists will speak about

1. lessons learned across their careers and how these lessons can educate and empower us to make a difference in our community,
2. what key facts we all need to understand to be good stewards of our environment beyond recycling.

Then the panelists will discuss recycling and other avenues to protect our environment related to:

1. how they expect to continue to serve our growing community,
2. actions they are interested in promoting, and
3. ways other states, communities, and individuals are successfully addressing these issues.

Finally, they will suggest where and how community members can get involved and be part of the sustainability efforts they propose. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Parking may be a challenge downtown. CU has provided a flyer on parking possibilities. The flyer's link is: <https://downtown.uccs.edu/parking-transportation> or just click on the green button below. Please consider ride sharing.

[Click here for CU's Parking Flyer](#)



**PUBLIC POLICY DAY**  
**Saturday, February 1, 2025**  
**9am—Noon on Zoom**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:  
30 Years of *Shining the Light***

The Violence Against Women Act turns 30 this year. What does the Act do? It provides funding and programs to help the recovery of female victims of violence. The renewed act expanded federal protections to LGBTQ+ individuals, Native Americans and immigrants. Public Policy Day 2025 will explore Colorado's efforts to counter Violence Against Women.

*Featuring:*



**State Rep. Monica Duran**  
House Majority Leader  
Representative for  
House District 23

**State Rep. Meg Froelich**  
Representative for  
House District 3  
Proposition KK Sponsor



**Elizabeth Newman**  
Public Policy Director, Colorado  
Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Roshan Kalantar**  
Executive Director,  
Violence Free Colorado

**Llen Pomeroy**  
Associate Vice Chancellor and  
Title IX Coordinator for the CU  
Boulder campus

**Debi Hunter Holen**  
Victim's Rights Advocate,  
Colorado Victims for Justice

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
OF COLORADO

[Click here to register for International Women's Day](#)

**March Meeting**



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
PIKES PEAK AREA  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## Colorado Springs International Women's Day Conference

Saturday, March 8, 2025  
8:00am - 4:30pm  
Colorado Springs Marriott

[Click here to register for International Women's Day](#)

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### Membership Matters

Thank you all for attending the Christmas Party. Happy New Year to everyone. Please welcome a new member, Nina Closson. I received her application and realized that she is my neighbor. Nina has many interests and will be an asset to our group!

We also have some sad news. Mary Stevens Humphreys, an honorary lifetime member of the AAUW Colorado Springs branch, passed away on December 25, 2024. In 2005, Mary received the Names Honored award, an annual award that recognizes a member who has gone above and beyond in service to the Colorado Springs Branch.

Mary's memorial service will be on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 10:00 am. Further details are in her obituary, which can be viewed at <https://obits.gazette.com/obituaries/search?firstName=Mary&lastName=Humphreys>

If you have any membership questions, please contact me.

Suzanne Baldwin Krauss, Membership VP

[Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com](mailto:Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com)

719-235-7481

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### Call for Names Honored Nominations

Every year at the Annual Business Meeting, we recognize an outstanding member of the branch. The Names Honored Selection Committee needs your help in selecting that member. Names Honored recipients are acknowledged by National in recognition for Branch Contributions to AAUW Funds. We raise these funds through individual donors and our King Soopers and Safeway Cards fundraising.

The selection criteria are:

- Primary consideration - Service to our branch.



- Secondary consideration - Service at the state and or national level.
- Additional consideration - Community, professional and cultural activities.

Please send your nomination to Candy Crumb at dccrumb02@aol.com

DEADLINE: Feb 28, 2025

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## **2024/2025 Elected Officers/Executive Committee/ Board Members**

President: **Crystal Stebbins**  
President Elect: **Joan Skoog**  
Treasurer: **Robin Depies**  
Secretary: **Cindy Keffe**  
Vice President of Membership: **Suzanne Kraus**  
Co-VPs of Programs: **Schon Beechler**  
**Marion Phelps**  
Co-VPs Community Outreach: **Marilyn Frydrych**  
OPEN

## **2024/2025 Appointed Officers/Board Members**

Communications Director: OPEN  
Interest Group Coordinator: **Pip Bodkin**  
Scholarships Chair: OPEN  
Public Policy Director: OPEN  
Hospitality Co-Chair: **Kathy Gutnayer**

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## **December Branch Meeting: Holiday Luncheon**

On December 14th, 2024, 45 AAUW members and family members of our Colorado Springs AAUW branch attended a delicious and joyous holiday luncheon at Biaggi's Restaurant. A variety of Italian main dishes were served, along with a number of deliciously sinful desserts.

As an accompaniment to our delicious meal and conversation, the very talented singer, guitarist and harmonica-playing George Ulrich of the Restless Hearts Duet, provided our musical entertainment. And while many of our members were a bit shy about joining in to sing carols, we did have a few brave souls who let their voices ring – thank you!

My sincere thanks go to Marian Phelps, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Kathy Gutnayer, Suzanne Baldwin-Kraus, Marilyn Frydrych, Pip Bodkin, Brenda Wolfe, and Crystal Stebbins for all of the work that they put in to make this a very memorable, fun, and musical celebration.

Finally, since a number of members at the luncheon asked for George Ulrich's contact information for possible future engagements, I am including a link to his band's website: [www.restlessheartsduet.com](http://www.restlessheartsduet.com)

Schon Beechler  
Co-VP, Programs

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## COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM

### An easy way to give just by shopping!!

King Soopers and Safeway will donate a percentage of your shopping total to our Colorado Springs Branch. All funds received through these Community Giving programs are donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Last year we were able to give over \$1300! What a wonderful way to help our National AAUW's mission at no extra cost to you except the time to sign up or reload a card.

#### King Soopers:

1. Login to King Soopers web site: <https://www.kingsoopers.com>
2. Create a personal account. Select "Sign In" at the Upper Right of screen. If you already have an account proceed to step 4.
1. First Name
2. Last Name
3. Email Address
4. Create password
5. ETC., ETC
1. Click on Account Name in upper right-hand corner of Screen. - You may have to login again with name & password if you are a new user.
2. Select My Account (upper top, right of screen) in Drop Down list
3. Select Community Rewards at bottom Left of Drop Down List.
4. Enter AAUW-Colorado Springs Branch – Organization #QB289
5. Save your selection

**Safeway:** To donate through your Safeway shopping, you need a rechargeable card which is supplied by Robin Depies. To receive yours please contact **Robin Depies** at 719-761-1802 or email [robin@heartfeltfinancialsolutions.com](mailto:robin@heartfeltfinancialsolutions.com). There is no charge for the card, but when you go to Safeway, you will need to go to the Customer Service counter to load whatever amount you would like on the card, then use it when shopping at Safeway. When that amount is used, take it to customer service to reload.

For every dollar spent, our branch receives between 3% & 5% depending on how much is spent each month.

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### Interest Groups



#### Environmental Action Interest Group

#### **22 Pounds in 22 Days**

**(And no, this isn't a New Year's diet plan - keep reading!)**

Please pitch in every bit of plastic you can through the end of January – it is helping our environment and our community!



With your incredible dedication and contributions to recycling, our AAUW branch is within reach of collecting a whopping 1,000 pounds of plastic film in 12 months.

If we can collect and submit just **22 more pounds of plastic film in the next 22 days we will receive a free Trex bench for our Colorado Springs community.**

Please pitch in all the plastic film you can through the end of January. Every little bit you contribute helps and Pam and Schon will do everything we can to get your plastic weighed, photographed and submitted through King Soopers stores in Colorado Springs.

[Click Here for Explanation of Acceptable Plastic Films](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact **Schon** at

[Schon.Beechler@Gmail.Com](mailto:Schon.Beechler@Gmail.Com) or Pam at [Pamela.s.maier@gmail.com](mailto:Pamela.s.maier@gmail.com)

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Calling all members! At the Welcome Coffee last September, some members expressed interest in two new groups that we want to get going.

**AFTERNOON READERS 2/LUNCHEON NOVEL 2**

This is your opportunity to jump into a book group at the initial stages so you can have your say: When to meet, where to meet, what to read? The book group world is your oyster!

## **MAH JONGG**

We used to have a Mah Jongg group, but it fizzled during Covid. We'd like to revive this fun group game and are looking for some more players to bring their talents, their interest and their enthusiasm. Played before? Great! Help others learn the game. New, but enthusiastic? Don't worry, there will be others like you, and we will be learning together!

Anyone with a Mah Jongg set they don't want? We'd love for you to come back to the game, but if that's not in your future, consider donating your set to a current member.

We are still hoping to get the Mah Jongg group up and running, but we need just a couple of new members to get started.

To express interest in these or any other groups, contact Pip Bodkin, Interest Group Coordinator (206) 427-2444, [pipbodkin@gmail.com](mailto:pipbodkin@gmail.com)

## **Listing of Interest Groups**

### Various Days in the week/month

BRIDGE LIGHT

### Mondays

HARDY HIKERS, BOOKS TO FILMS

### Tuesdays

DINNER BOOK CLUB, GREAT DECISIONS (Current World Events), MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB, READERS' POTPOURRI, TECHNOLOGY, VISUAL ARTS

### Wednesdays

AFTERNOON READERS, CHOCOLATE LOVERS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (EA), LUNCHEON NOVEL 1, LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO, SOUTHWEST STUDIES

### Thursdays

CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP, TED TALKS, WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES, WOMEN WHO WRITE

### Fridays

EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES, LOCAL HISTORY

### Fridays or Saturdays

FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)

For those who would like more information about interest groups click below:

[Click Here for More Information on Interest Groups](#)

**American Association of  
University Women**

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs  
United States of America



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